

*Los Angeles County Department of*  
Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures

**:: NEWS BULLETIN ::**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: April 17, 2003**

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**“CONTINUED OVERCHARGES”**

**COUNTY SEALER URGES CONSUMERS  
TO CHECK THEIR RECEIPTS**

**ALSO: LISTING OF LATEST COMPLETED SCANNER OVERCHARGE CASES**

“Although the Scanner Ordinance was established just over a year ago, county inspectors have continued to find numerous overcharges across the board,” said Cato R. Fiksdal, Los Angeles County Sealer of Weights and Measures. Mr. Fiksdal continues to remind shoppers to be mindful of every purchase and to make sure that they are charged the lowest advertised or posted price. If there is a discrepancy, consumers are urged to consult the store management. Mr. Fiksdal urged shoppers to check their receipts carefully for every purchase, no matter what type of store is shopped.

A full report was made to the Board of Supervisors last week which presents the one-year statistics (2002) for the Scanner Program. This report, prepared by the Sealer, may be viewed on the Department’s web site: <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>. The highlights from the Board letter include: Price Verification staff was overcharged on one or more items in 25% of the stores where they conducted test purchases; there were no overcharges at jewelry stores, yet office supply stores overcharged staff on one or more items during 31 of 61 undercover purchases; the department submitted 501 cases to the courts for prosecution; and 86 infraction cases were prosecuted through the administrative civil penalty procedure.

The Department believes that the public should be aware of their rights, and alerting them to the stores with scanner overcharging problems. If you feel that you have been overcharged at a particular location, please contact the department at 1-800-665-2900 or e-mail [scanners@acwm.co.la.ca.us](mailto:scanners@acwm.co.la.ca.us). On the average, 21 scanner complaints are received each month. To keep the public more informed, the Department sends out monthly news releases which lists the most recently completed cases of stores found guilty of overcharging at the check stand. This information can also be found on the website.

In order to keep the consumer more informed, Los Angeles County sponsored legislation (AB 2732) which was signed into law by Governor Davis. The new law requires that all cash registers equipped with electronic point of sale systems have pricing displays which are visible to

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consumers. The stores must have their check stands in compliance by January 1, 2007, which allows them sufficient time to factor this expense into their equipment purchases.

Listed below are recently completed cases:

1. **Albertson's Inc. #6543, 2400 W. Commonwealth Ave., Alhambra**

Date of offense: 3/5/02

Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1182.21

2. **Albertson's Inc. #6121, 1000 E. Valley Blvd., Alhambra**

Date of offense: 3/14/02

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$305.00

3. **Albertson's Inc. #6224, 14433 Ramona Blvd., Baldwin Park**

Date of offense: 6/27/02

Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$857.21, 12 mos summary probation

4. **CompUSA #201, 745 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia**

Date of offense: 5/09/02

Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$743.83

5. **GNC #6422 (General Nutrition Corp), 830-B Arrow Highway, San Dimas**

Date of offense: 5/29/02

Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$300.00, 36 mos summary probation

6. **Home Depot #607, 18137 Gale Ave., City of Industry**

Date of offense: 5/29/02

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 2 counts, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1372.12

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7. **Mervyn's #126, 150 E. Main Street, Alhambra**

Date of offense: 3/5/02

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1838.82, 12 mos summary probation

8. **Office Depot #666, 1200 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra**

Date of offense: 3/13/02

Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1865.51, 12 mos summary probation

9. **Office Depot #932, 18041 Gale Ave., City of Industry**

Date of offense: 7/2/02

Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$727.12

10. **Office Max #868, 721 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena**

Date of offense: 6/6/02

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1730.00

11. **Payless Food #8, 2301 W. Rosecrans Ave., Gardena**

Date of offense: 2/22/02

Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$720.00

12. **Ralphs Grocery Co. (Food 4 Less #396), 3000 Baldwin Park Blvd., Baldwin Park**

Date of offense: 7/2/02

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 2 counts, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$857.21

13. **Sears, Roebuck and Co. #1598, 1600 Azusa Ave. #100, City of Industry**

Date of offense: 5/30/02

Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$300.00

14. **Smart & Final #314, 266 Huntington Drive, Monrovia**  
Date of offense: 5/7/02  
Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 1 count  
Fines and fees: \$560.60
15. **Sportmart #649, 3610 Torrance Blvd., Torrance**  
Date of offense: 1/22/02  
Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$1911.15, 12 mos summary probation
16. **Target #1033, 3100 Baldwin Park Blvd., Baldwin Park**  
Date of offense: 7/2/02  
Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$653.81, 6 mos summary probation
17. **The Gap, Inc (Old Navy #5642), 2753 Eastland Center, West Covina**  
Date of offense: 3/5/02  
Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 1 count  
Fines and fees: \$850.00, 12 mos summary probation
18. **The Good Guys, 17523 Colima Rd., City of Industry**  
Date of offense: 5/30/02  
Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$527.12, 12 mos summary probation
19. **The Pep Boys #985, 201 West Huntington Drive, Monrovia**  
Date of offense: 5/16/02  
Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$723.82
20. **Toys "R" Us # 5662, 2500 W. Commonwealth Ave., Alhambra**  
Date of offense: 3/5/02  
Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$1838.82, 12 mos summary probation

21. **Toys “R” Us , 17961 Gale Ave., City of Industry**

Date of offense: 5/29/02

Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$727.16

22. **Zany Brainy #612, 3842 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance**

Date of offense: 5/8/02

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 2 counts, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$2874.12, 12 mos summary probation